

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 021108
ORIGIN ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-06 OMB-01 TRSE-00 /062 R

DRAFTED BY ARA/AND:VGRAHAM:CMM
APPROVED BY ARA:FJMCNEIL
ARA/AND/E:JAALLITTO

-----031312 270405Z /64

R 261626Z JAN 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY QUITO
INFO AMEMBASSY LIMA
AMCONSUL GUAYAQUIL

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PBOR, PGOV, PINT, PEPR, EC

SUBJECT: YCAZA/MCNEIL MEETING OF JANUARY 24

1. AT AMBASSADOR YCAZA'S REQUEST, DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY MCNEIL MET WITH HIM ON JANUARY 24. YCAZA BASICALLY WANTED MCNEIL'S ASSISTANCE ON TWO FMS CREDIT MATTERS, BUT HIS COMMENTS REGARDING RECENT EVENTS IN ECUADOR MAY BE OF INTEREST TO THE EMBASSY.

2. NOTING HIS RECENT VISIT TO ECUADOR, YCAZA TERMED IT "INTERESTING", DUE TO THE CONSTITUTIONAL REFERENDUM THAT TOOK PLACE WHILE HE WAS THERE. HE SAID THAT THE REFERENDUM WAS CONSIDERED A GREAT SUCCESS AND ANOTHER STEP ALONG THE WAY TO PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS. HE NOTED THAT WHILE THERE HAD BEEN 400,000 NULL VOTES, THIS CONSTITUTED ONLY 23 PER-
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CENT OF THE ELECTORATE, WHICH WAS LESS THAN WHAT THE PROTEST-VOTE ORGANIZERS WANTED. YCAZA STATED HE FELT THAT THERE WERE NOW SERIOUS CANDIDATES INTENT UPON A SERIOUS PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION CAMPAIGN. YCAZA ALSO MENTIONED THAT HE HAD HEARD THAT BANKER JAIME ACOSTA HAD WITHDRAWN FROM THE RACE.

3. IN RESPONSE TO MCNEIL'S QUERY CONCERNING LAST WEEK'S
BORDER INCIDENTS, YCAZA PLAYED DOWN THE WHOLE MATTER,

NOTING THAT SUCH INCIDENTS HAD OCCURRED IN THE PAST, THAT
PEOPLE GET LOST IN THE JUNGLE, AND THAT THE IMPORTANT
THING WAS THAT BOTH SIDES WANT TO AVOID FURTHER CON-
FRONTATIONS. YCAZA ADDED THAT IT IS HOPED THAT THE TALKS
CAN BE RESUMED IN A REASONABLE PERIOD OF TIME AND, IN A
PASSING REFERENCE TO THE COMMUNIQUE, COMMENTED THAT THERE
ARE ALWAYS TWO SIDES TO EVERY STORY. HE SAID HE WOULD BE
IN TOUCH WITH THE FOREIGN MINISTER NEXT WEEK AND WOULD
KEEP MCNEIL INFORMED OF ANY DEVELOPMENTS. VANCE

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